(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to control mushrooming illegal construction in the capital city Delhi, which is a potential danger to the lives of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to constitute a National Disaster Management Authority under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Authority shall be assisted by an Advisory Committee of Experts and an Executive Committee of Secretaries. The Authority shall be responsible for drawing up a National Disaster Management Plan in consultation with States, coordinating and monitoring its implementation as also coordinating response to a disaster.

(c) In order to curb illegal encroachment and unauthorized construction in Delhi, Government has been issuing instructions from time to time to various local bodies to take strong and prompt action in all such cases including misuse of land in violation of the provisions of Master Plan of Delhi. Further, the unified building byelaws of Delhi 1983 also provide for adequate measures to be taken for safety against fire hazards and natural disasters like earthquake, compliance of which is to be ensured by the local bodies while sanctioning building plans.

Custodial deaths in Delhi

3631. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of custodial deaths registered in Delhi during 2003 and 2004;

(b) the number of officers and other ranks of Delhi Police accused in these cases, the number out of them who are absconding and the number against whom criminal proceedings have been initiated;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those absconding; and

(d) what tangible steps are proposed to be taken so that such cases don't recur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY: (a) to (c) Details of cases relating to custodial deaths registered during the years 2003 and 2004 are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(d) The details of the steps taken to prevent custodial deaths are indicated below:

1. A person arrested and kept in custody by the police is given an opportunity to inform a friend, relative or any other person who is known to him or likely to take an interest in his welfare. Police Station telephones are made available to the arrested persons for this purpose.
2. Surprise visits by senior police officers of police stations, police posts, assistance booths, check post etc. to check violations of human rights, misbehaviour with women treatment meted out to the persons seeking police assistance.
3. Conducting periodic checking of police station and other police establishments by a Central Checking Team to prevent illegal detention and use of handcuffs.
4. Visit of police stations by senior police officers regularly for attending the complaints/grievances of public on the spot.
5. Earmarking separate areas in all police stations for interrogation of suspects. It is named as 'Sankraman Kaksha' and is located in the vicinity of Reporting Room and SHO's Room. Investigating officers have directions to examine suspects and witnesses in 'Sankraman Kaksha' only. No member of the public is allowed to go, or be taken to, any other room of the police station for questioning or any other purposes.
6. The Investigating Officers are briefed by their senior officers to desist from use of 3rd degree methods.
7. Investigating Officers are encouraged to use scientific methods of investigation.
8. Strict action is taken against police personnel found using 3rd degree method.
9. Instructions have been issued to all concerned not to keep drunkards, drug addicts, sick and injured persons at police stations.
10. Close circuit TV sets have been installed in some police stations to keep a better supervision.

Statement

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3631 due for answer on 27th April, 2005

Year	Name of the deceased person	FIR number, date and name of Police Station	Details of Police personnel involved
2003	Sushil Kumar, R/o Madi Pur, Delhi	807 dated 21/10.2003 registered at Police Station Punjabi Bagh, Delhi	One Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable and three Constables of Delhi Police have been arrested. Charge sheets against them have been filed in the court and the case is pending trial.
	Ravinder Kumar Malik, S/o Meena Malik, R/o Balasore (Orrisa)	169 dated 11.4.2003 registered at Police Station Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi	The death was due to suicide in police custody by hanging from the ceiling. No police personnel were found to be responsible for his death.
	Gopal Dass, S/o Chunni Lal, R/o West Patel Nagar, Delhi	DD No. 59-B dated 21.6.2003 registered at Police Station Patel Nagar, Delhi	The accused reported chest pain to the Constable on duty who took him to R.M.L. Hospital where doctor declared him brought dead. No police personnel was found to be responsible for his death.
2004	Pramod, S/o Kishan Bihari, R/o Sitapur (UP)	DD No. 76-B dated 5.7.2004 registered at Police Station, Subzi Mandi, Delhi	The death was due to suicide by hanging. No police personnel was found to be responsible for his death.